

REMARKS

Claims 6 and 13 have been amended, 1-5 and 8-12 had been cancelled, no new claim has been added. Thus, claims 6, 7, and 13-21 are pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

In the Action dated January 11, 2006, Claim 13 was objected because of the spell-miss of the particular claim limitation. Since Claim 13 has been amended in compliance with the examiner's suggestion, the objection is no more applicable.

In the Action, Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C.102 (b) as being anticipated by Yasuhiro (JP H02-113596A). **Applicant disagrees because of the following reasons.**

Rejected independent claim 6 has been amended to includes at least following limitations;

- (a) a plurality of pads for the semiconductor device, and said pads being disposed in a first line,
- (b) a plurality of terminals for an external device, said terminals being disposed in a second line, which is in parallel to said first line of said pads; and
- (c) a plurality of trenches extending along said terminals.

However, Yasuhiro discloses none of the characteristics described above. As to the characteristic (a), while the examiner asserted that the pads (2) are

disposed in a first line, it is admitted that only cross-section is shown. Applicants could not understand how the cross sectional drawing such as Fig.1 could show that the pads (2) are disposed in a first line. In other words, Yasuhiro does not disclose the pads (2) are disposed in a first line.

As to the characteristic (b), the examiner asserted that the element (2) on the right side of the Fig.1 of Yasuhiro would be the terminal of the invention while the element (2) on left of the Fig.1 of Yasuhiro is represented as the pads of the invention. As amended in Claim 6, a plurality of pads is for the semiconductor device, and a plurality of terminals are for an external device. However, all elements (2) in Yasuhiro are for a semiconductor device, not for an external device. Thus, Yasuhiro does not disclose the terminals. Further, even if the elements (2) of Yasuhiro is treated as terminals, it is not disclosed that the elements (2) of Yasuhiro are disposed in a second line, which is in parallel to the first line of the pads. The cross sectional view such as Fig. 1 of Yasuhiro cannot show that the elements (2) are disposed in a second line, which is in parallel to the first line of the pads. Moreover, the elements (2) in Yasuhiro are not formed on a side edge of the circuit board.

As to the characteristic (c), Yasuhiro discloses a plurality of spaces, which are located between pads (2). The examiner asserted that these spaces are trenches. This assertion is not accurate. According to the invention, a plurality of trenches should be extended along terminals. Yasuhiro does not show that the spaces are extended along element (2).

Accordingly, Yasuhiro does not disclose or suggest the claimed circuit board having the characteristics (a), (b) and (c) described above, claim 6 clearly

are not anticipated by Yasuhiro, and is deemed to be clearly patentable over Yasuhiro, and the rejection of claim 6 accordingly should be withdrawn.

In the Action, Claim 6 is further rejected under 35 U.S.C.102 (a) as being anticipated by JP329 (JP H11-298130 published on October 29, 1999).

Applicant disagrees because of the following reasons.

First of all, as the examiner well knows, in 35 U.S.C. 102 (a), a person shall be entitled to a patent unless the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent. This application is a divisional application of applicant's application Serial No. 10/289,358, filed November 7, 2002, which is division of applicant's application Serial No. 10/022,285, filed 12/20/01, which is division of applicant's application Serial No. 09/450,504, filed November 30, 1999, which is now patented, No. 6,420,658. No new matter is added during the prosecution. Further, this application claims the priority benefit of Japanese Patent Application No. 10-354757, filed December 14, 1998, the entire subject matter of which is incorporated herein of reference. The original application (09/450,504, filed November 30, 1999) was translated from the Japanese Patent Application No. 10-354757 without adding any new matters. Thus, since the invention date of this invention can be established at least on December 14, 1998, the JP329 cannot be applied to reject the claims. If necessary, applicant can submit the certified translation to overcome this rejection.

Further, the same argument, which was made above, can be applied against the JP329. That is, the JP 329 discloses only cross-sectional Figs. Thus,

it is impossible to disclose in JP 329 that the pad and the terminal is disposed in a first and a second lines. Further, the elements (2C: through-hole land) in JP329 are not formed on a side edge of the circuit board. Moreover, it is impossible to disclose in JP329 that the trenches are extended along the terminals.

Accordingly, JP329 does not disclose or suggest the claimed circuit board having the characteristics (a), (b) and (c) described above, and JP329 is clearly not a prior art reference, claim 6 clearly are not anticipated by JP329, and is deemed to be clearly patentable over JP329, and the rejection of claim 6 accordingly should be withdrawn.

In the Action, Claims 6 and 7 is further rejected under 35 U.S.C.102 (e) as being anticipated by Suzuki (USP 5, 925,445). **Applicant disagrees because of the following reasons.**

As to the characteristics (a), Suzuki does not disclose a plurality of pads, and does not disclose the pad being disposed in first line.

As to the characteristics (b), Suzuki does not disclose a plurality of terminals, and does not disclose the terminals being disposed in second line, which is in parallel to the first line. Moreover, Suzuki does not disclose that the terminals are formed on a side edge of the circuit board.

As to the characteristics (c), it is clear from Figs. 3 and 4 of Suzuki that there are resist films 4b and 4c between the pad (2) and the terminal 7. However, there is a single trench, not plural, between the resist films 2b and 4c.

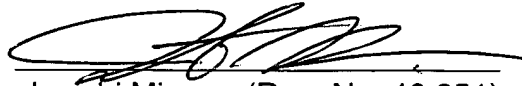
Since Suzuki discloses a single trench, which is formed in the resist films, the characteristics of claim 7 are not disclosed in Suzuki.

Accordingly, Suzuki does not disclose or suggest the claimed circuit board having the characteristics (a), (b) and (c) described above, claims 6 and 7 clearly are not anticipated by Suzuki, and are deemed to be clearly patentable over Suzuki, and the rejection of claims 6 and 7 accordingly should be withdrawn.

Claims 13-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki as applied to claim 6 above. Claims 13-21 depend from claim 6 directly or indirectly. As described above, since Suzuki does not disclose above-described characteristics (a), (b) and (c), and the claim 6 would not be obvious over the Suzuki, claims 13-21 would not also obvious over Suzuki. Thus, the rejection applied to claims 13-31 should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, the application is deemed to be in condition for allowance and such is earnestly solicited. Should any fee be needed, please charge it to our Account No. 50-0945 and notify us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,



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